freed from all fear of consequences, let loose as a scourge from heaven upon our land. Surely the right honourable baronet is himself unacquainted with the magnitude of the evil in its existing state, or he would never wish to increase it a thousandfold by introducing such an objectionable Bill. And we verily believe he is so; we believe that the public at large have no conception of its magnitude,—practitioners of medicine alone see the dark reality. And why is this? The reason is simple,—it is because it does not come directly under every man's notice—does not exactly stare him in the face; but he must go out of his way to see it. An aggravated murder happens,—it is blazed abroad—the community is struck with horror—a large reward is often offered by the Government for the murderer's discovery—and the whole machinery of a detective police is thrown into action to bring him from his hiding place, and if discovered and found guilty he is publicly executed, to show what value the English people set on human life. A shipwreck happens, with the loss of many lives, and the sympathies of the nation are aroused, and could it be proved that the pilot in charge of that vessel was an unqualified person, a heavy punishment would fall upon him or his employers. Let a guard upon one of our numerous railways evince symptoms of intoxication, though no accident of any kind may happen, let it be noticed and reported by one of the passengers, and he is imprisoned and kept to hard labour for several months. These instances all indicate the national feeling and the tone of the laws upon the subject, when the evil presents itself in a shape which, without the slightest difficulty, the public mind can grasp. And shall the victims of unqualified practice be unrecognised by the law,—shall, in fact, their murder be legalised, because they pass quietly away without rousing a feeling of anxiety on their behalf? We know it may be argued that there is the same remedy in the one case as in the other. We grant it; but in the one detection is certain, in the other it is next to impossible; and we have no hesitation in stating, that for every case in which a verdict of manslaughter is returned against one of these uneducated “doctors,” there are thousands of cases in which the same verdict ought to be recorded, which never meet the public eye.

But the law takes under its cognisance not only the lives, but the persons of men. If one individual, under the influence of passion, or hatred, or revenge, with “malice aforethought,” injures another, the aggressor, upon conviction, is severely punished. But how much lasting injury, how much unnecessary suffering, is inflicted upon thousands of our countrymen, through the arrogant pretensions of men for whom this country is too good, through (for it is better to be candid) the malpractices of *practising* chemists and druggists. If there are hundreds constantly being sacrificed at the shrine of quackery, or, more properly, the shrine of Mammon, how many thousands come under this latter class; if there is scarcely a medical man but can mention cases in which lives have been lost by improper treatment, how many hundreds come under his notice in a large practice, who have been put to unnecessary torture, and needless expense, by the *experiments* of unqualified men, till at last, goaded by suffering, and with disease daily gaining ground, they have been forced to apply to a regular practitioner. We are confident that hundreds of such cases present themselves to the medical men of London only in the course of a week. But here, again, we may be taunted by our remedy, the only remedy, exists in allowing none but those who have been *well educated* in diseases and their treatment, to have in their care the diseases of the public.

It is often argued by those who hold contrary opinions, that there are many good practitioners who never had a regular education,—many chemists and druggists, who have a knowledge of disease, and are capable of prescribing with fact and precision. We believe that a few may be found; but we can never help asking ourselves, on such occasions, in what way has this knowledge been obtained; if not by a slow and methodical training in its study, by numerous opportunities of patient investigation, the only conclusion we can come to is, that it has been acquired by direct *experiment* upon the human frame, by that “experience which maketh fools wise;” and in such a course, it is needless to say, what an incalculable amount of evil a single individual may do before he can make even tolerable progress, before he can treat properly the simplest cases,—an amount of mis-

chief which demands, and did it but assume a tangible shape, would have, the prompt interference of the legislature. The knowledge of diseases cannot be acquired by intuition nor their treatment by stratagem.

In conclusion, we would express our opinion that this is not the cause of the profession, but the cause of the public. It is taking a narrow view of the subject indeed, to say that the medical profession requires *protection*,—it does not; but the public require it, especially the poor require it. As conservators of the public health, it is the duty of the medical practitioners of this empire to unite heart and soul in opposing a measure so fraught with evil to the public weal; their opinion upon this subject is the only one of importance, and it should be listened to with the most respectful attention by the legislature and the country. Instead of lowering the standard of medical education, which throwing open the profession to all will inevitably do, it requires to be raised. Education and examination enough have we in the principles of medicine, we require more of each in the practice; we require that no medical practitioner shall be allowed to have the lives of his fellow-creatures, in many cases under his absolute control, without passing an examination at the bed-side of the sick; we require that the abominable system of *grinding* shall be done away with, and the necessity for it likewise; and especially do we require that, under severe penal enactments, the lives of the community shall be guarded from the avarice of unprincipled, unqualified adventurers. Could we but get a trace of that spirit into our laws, which prevailed amongst the ancient Egyptians, rendering the life of the physician responsible for the bad success attending any experiment upon his patient, where would be our quackery, where our *practising* chemists and druggists, where our unqualified professional men.

Tottenham, May 22, 1844.

STATEMENT OF THE SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

SURREY BENEVOLENT MEDICAL SOCIETY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—On behalf of the Surrey Benevolent Medical Society, I have to request the favour of you to cause the following resolution to be inserted in the next number of your Journal. I have the honour to remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,

PETER MARTIN, Sec.

Reigate, May 28, 1844.

The printed statement of the Society of Apothecaries, recently published, having been circulated for perusal among the members of this society, and a copy thereof presented by the president to the half-yearly general meeting of the Surrey Benevolent Medical Society, held at Epsom, on the 27th instant.

It was moved by Dr. Mayd, of Epsom, and seconded by Edward Westall, Esq., of Croydon, and resolved unanimously,—

“That the thanks of the Surrey Benevolent Medical Society be tendered to the Society of Apothecaries for their very satisfactory statement.

“That it is the opinion of this society that the whole medical profession, but more especially the great body of general practitioners, is deeply indebted to the Society of Apothecaries for the able, upright, and efficient manner in which it has carried out the objects and enforced the provisions of the Act of 1815.

“That, under its administration of that Act, the education of the general practitioner has been greatly improved, his moral and intellectual character elevated, his influence in society proportionally increased, and his respectability and dignified position more fully established in public estimation.

“That medical science has advanced, and a vast increase of professional knowledge has resulted from its cautious but steadily-increased scale of requirement from candidates for the licence, and its wise development of the powers with which it was invested by that Act, and that incalculable benefits have resulted to the public from the honest and able manner in which the Society of Apo-

the apothecaries has discharged the difficult and responsible duties imposed upon it by the legislature.

"That the president do, on behalf of this society, communicate this resolution to the Society of Apothecaries, with an assurance of warm participation in the grateful feelings which it is believed are generally entertained towards it by the great body of the medical profession."

HOSPITAL REPORTS.

LOCK HOSPITAL.

[Reports by JOHN MACKIN, Esq., House-surgeon of the Hospital.]

VENEREAL WARTS.

REBECCA T., ætat. 24, married. Admitted under Mr. Cutler, March 25. Eleven months ago she contracted from her husband a discharge per vagina, which soon became very profuse. About seven months ago a few warts appeared on the labia, and since that period these have rapidly increased in size. On admission some immense hard warts were obvious on both labiæ, each cluster being about the size of two fists; profuse and very offensive vaginal discharge, attended with very great debility.

26. Ordered lead lotion.

R *Infusion of gentian, calumba root*, of each half an ounce; *carbonate of ammonia*, five grains; *camphor mixture*, an ounce. Mix, for a draught, three times daily. To use a hip-bath.

27. Last night was attacked with diarrhoea, and this morning passed bloody stools. Pulse very rapid, and she is very feverish. Substitute for the former draughts—

R *Saline draught*, an ounce and a half; *tincture of opium*, three minims, three times daily.

The discharge being excessively fetid, to use chloride of soda as a lotion for the warts, and to continue the lead lotion as an injection.

28. Is a great deal easier to-day.

April 2. Complains of a great deal of pain in the warts, which prevents her sleeping at night. Ordered—

R *Acetate of morphia*, half a grain, at bedtime; and, as an injection, *decoction of tormentilla*, one pint; *sulphate of alum*, three drachms. Mix.

8. The warts on left labium seem inclined to slough. Ordered—

R *Quinine draught*, containing two grains of *quinine*, an ounce and a half, three times a day, and to increase the *morphia* to a grain every night. To have meat diet with porter.

12. One of the warts has fallen off, leaving a large excavated ulcer; the discharge is still very offensive.

14. The sloughing is rather extending. To use compound elemi ointment and a carrot-poultice to the ulcer. To continue the quinine.

18. All the warts on the left labium have come away, and a very large excavated ulcer is left, into which a clenched hand might be easily inserted. Ordered a grain of opium every four hours. To have the strong nitric acid applied freely to the sloughing edges of the ulcer.

20. The slough caused by the nitric acid has come away, and the lower part of the ulcer is more healthy. Repeat the acid application.

23. Lower portion of ulcer is disposed to granulate; the sloughing, however, still extends upwards to the pubis. Omit opium, and take—

R *Decoction of bark*, an ounce and a half; *tincture of opium*, twenty minims; *aromatic confection*, a scruple. Mix, for a dose every four hours. Four ounces of wine; *tincture of benzoin* in a carrot-poultice to ulcer.

May 8. The foregoing treatment was pursued to this time, the ulcer granulating at the lower portion, while extending upwards on the pubis to the abdomen. Omit the bark, substituting—

R *Compound decoction of sarsaparilla*, a pint; *tincture of calumba*, an ounce; *tincture of opium*, half an ounce; *extract of sarza*, a drachm; *dilute nitric acid*, half an ounce. For a mixture, to be taken daily. Continue the *morphia* at night.

17. Much better since last report. The sloughing appears to be arrested; the sore on the labium is quite healed; but at the lower portion of the abdomen, a little above the symphysis pubis, there is an ulcer, caused by the sloughing, large enough to admit two fingers, and this appears to extend for about an inch upwards and outwards under the abdominal parietes. To-day she complains of sickness and slight purging. Leave off the sarsaparilla and take—

R *Battley's solution of pale bark*, ten minims; *tincture of opium*, a drachm; *water*, an ounce and a half. Mix for a draught, three times a day.

26. Greatly improved; the whole surface, with the exception of the upper corner, is granulating and healing. Discharge from the upper part still rather profuse; complains of pain in right knee and thigh. Ordered two grains of iodide of potass to each dose of the medicine.

28. Better.

PRIMARY SORE; HEALING PROCESS FIRST INDUCED BY SALIVATION.

Charles R., a stable-man, ætat. 33, admitted under Mr. Cutler, Feb. 23. He states that two months ago, five or six days *post coitu*, he first perceived a sore on the penis, at the left side of the frænum. He applied to a surgeon for relief, and took two dozen of blue pills, which affected his mouth, but he found no benefit from this medicine. On admission he had, on the under surface of the glans, one large sloughing sore, which had destroyed the frænum, and another smaller ulcer on its right side, which appeared to extend into the substance of the glans; the sores were both of a very unhealthy character, covered with a white slough. Mr. Cutler ordered him—

R *Compound decoction of sarza*, a pint, with *iodide of potass*, twelve grains. To be taken daily, and to apply to the sores this lotion—*Diluted nitric acid*, two drachms; *water*, two ounces. Mix. Meat diet, and a pint of porter daily.

He pursued this mode of treatment up to the 6th of March. At first there was some slight amendment, but in a few days he commenced gradually getting worse, the sores extending and becoming much more painful. On the 6th of March he was ordered to rub in half a drachm of mercurial ointment, and to omit the iodide of potass, continuing the sarza, and to use a lotion to the ulcers containing a solution of opium.

March 14. No improvement in the sores; the system not affected by the mercury. Ordered to rub in half a drachm of the ointment twice a day, and to use a warm bath at night.

20. Ulceration rapidly extends; the mercury has not yet affected the gums. Omit the mercurial ointment, and to take *blue pill*, five grains, *opium*, one grain, three times a day. Apply red wash to sores.

24. Gums are slightly vascular; no improvement in sores.

26. The mercury has now affected the mouth, and there is a marked change for the better in that part of the ulcers near the orifice of the urethra.

30. For the last two days the sores have been stationary, neither increasing nor diminishing. Ordered the pills four times daily.

April 5. The larger ulcer is better; the cicatrization going on in the part near the origin of urethra, but the ulceration does not appear to be arrested at the sides.

7. The larger ulcer is now healing rapidly. He is fully under the influence of the blue pill, which has lately gripped him. Ordered to take occasionally Battley's *solution of opium*, ten minims; *pimento-water*, an ounce. Mix.

13. Cicatrization has lately rather gained on the ulceration. He has a good deal of pain in the part, which spreads. Ordered a leech on the place, and to take the pill twice daily.

17. Not so well to-day; pulse rapid; and he is very feverish. Ordered a saline purge, and to discontinue the pills, the mercury having apparently effected all that it could for him.

19. Pulse quieter; ulcers stationary. Ordered opium, a grain, twice daily, and to resume the sarza.